

Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. (NKJV)



The fleshly mind has special ends and designs against our souls, and against the principle of grace that is in us; but its proper formal object is God: it is "enmity against God." It is its work to oppose grace; it is a consequent of its work to oppose our souls, which follows upon what it does more than what it intends; but its nature and formal design is to oppose God— God as the lawgiver, God as holy, God as the author of the gospel, a way of salvation by grace, and not by works—this is the direct object of the law of sin. Why does it oppose duty, so that the good we would do we do not [Rom. 7:19], either as to matter or manner? Why does it render the soul carnal, indisposed, unbelieving, unspiritual, weary, wandering? It is because of its enmity to God, whom the soul aims to have communion with in duty. ...where communion with God is not aimed at, but only the duty itself... the opposition that will lie against it from the law of sin will be very weak (John Owen, *The Nature, Power, Deceit and Prevalence of Indwelling Sin*, 6:178-179; Justin Taylor, ed., *Overcoming Sin and Temptation*, p. 259).